
District of Columbia Public Library

Bill 16-743, Library Transformation Act of 2006

Testimony of

Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian

Before the
Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

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Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
1:00PM

Madame Chairman,

I am Ginnie Cooper, the Chief Librarian for the District of Columbia Public Library and I am happy to be here with you today. I've been here for three months and three days and made progress, and have much work ahead.

Here is what we've done:

- We have installed Wi-Fi in the Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library and in all our neighborhood libraries. And every day students, writers, researchers, and business people come into their library to access free Internet connections.
- We have 40' long Hi-Tech Bookmobiles in the neighborhoods that have been without their libraries for too long.
- Thanks to you, the Mayor, and your colleagues on the City Council, all libraries are open on Sunday afternoons.
- In late December we will open the interim Tenley Library.
- And early next year, we will open interim libraries in Shaw, Benning, and Anacostia neighborhoods.
- We have conducted 'spruce-ups' at the neighborhood libraries. We contracted for painting, carpeting, lighting, outside maintenance – intensive work to show the neighborhoods that we cared about their library as much as they did. And more is in the process of being done.
- We have begun receiving the hundreds of computers that will replace every public access computer in the library system – at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library and throughout the neighborhoods. We need hundreds more, and they too will come.
- In a few months, the library's web site and catalog of books will be updated. Through both the catalog and the website you will have access from home or school to all the electronic databases we are buying. We have already purchased a number of databases to support school students and those who study the history of the District of Columbia.

Now I would like to take you quickly through a PowerPoint presentation that describes in detail why supporting the Library Transformation Act of 2006 makes good sense for the District of Columbia and its residents.